

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 517 - SB 1074**

March 8, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires that a child advocacy center (CAC) conduct the initial forensic interview with a child who is an alleged victim of child sexual abuse. If any subsequent interviews are found necessary by the child protective team, then the team will seek to interview the child in a neutral setting other than where the alleged abuse occurred.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increased State Expenditures - \$140,000**

Assumptions:

- Under current law, the child protective team is required to seek to interview the child in a neutral setting, other than where the alleged abuse occurred, whenever possible.
- According to the Department of Children's Services (DCS), 8,826 forensic interviews were conducted in child advocacy centers statewide and 9,698 allegations of sexual abuse were investigated in calendar year 2012. Of the total allegations, 872 investigations of alleged child sexual abuse did not involve a forensic interview (9,698 allegations – 8,826 forensic interviews).
- According to DCS, one forensic interviewer will work 230 cases of alleged child sexual abuse. Four additional forensic interviewers will be required at the CACs (872 allegations / 230 cases).
- In order for CACs to comply with the bill's requirements, DCS will fund a portion of each new forensic interviewer's salary and benefits. According to DCS, the state contribution will be \$35,000 per investigator. The total increase in expenditures will be \$140,000.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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